United Nations A/70/381

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 September 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Items 15 and 117 of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 14 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", is transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session for action, I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 117.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to you and your office, in particular Amina Mohamed, and to the co-facilitators of the post-2015 negotiations, Ambassador Macharia Kamau and Ambassador David Donoghue, their teams, other delegations, civil society organizations, businesses and the many millions of people around the world who have participated in the process to design the new global development agenda.

As stated in the preamble to the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty and ending hunger are among the greatest challenges facing our world today and indispensable requirements for sustainable development. Tackling these global challenges will require coherent, concerted and coordinated efforts. We will need to build upon what we have learned and find innovative approaches to eradicating poverty and ending hunger. We will also need to be tenacious in our efforts to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, including improving maternal, newborn and child health and empowering women and girls.

Canada is pleased that the importance of peace and security is highlighted in the new agenda. In that context, I would like to emphasize that Canada is committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, including the creation of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

* A/70/150.

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With respect to the reference to "foreign occupation" in paragraph 35, Canada regrets any efforts to politicize the 2030 Agenda. Such efforts detract from constructive initiatives to implement it and serve only to further inhibit practical solutions. The best way to address the current situation between Israel and the Palestinians is through a comprehensive peace agreement achieved through negotiations between the parties.

I would also like to clarify our understanding of two elements of the outcome document. First, as stated in paragraph 55, each Government decides how the aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. With that context in mind, Canada understands that even targets that make specific reference to national measurements, such as targets 1.2 and 10.1, are collective global targets to which individual countries will contribute in accordance with their national priorities and circumstances.

Second, we strongly support the objectives of target 8.7, including measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. In that context, we wish to underscore that we interpret the reference to the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the context of existing international law. Canada has stringent safeguards to ensure that recruitment into the Canadian Armed Forces is not forced or compulsory, and that any deployment of members of the Armed Forces to take a direct part in hostilities is fully compliant with applicable international obligations.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Canada to working constructively with the United Nations system and other delegations as attention turns to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(*Signed*) Guillermo E. **Rishchynski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/70/382

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 September 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Items 15 and 117 of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the following reservations on the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Cameroon underscores that the content of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the national legislation and development priorities of countries, as well as cultural and ethical values and religious background, and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

With regard to paragraph 19 of the declaration and target 10.2, we do not view the phrase "other status" as applying to sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT).

As for "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as mentioned in target 3.7, they should be age-appropriate, and Cameroon denies that such a reference may be defined to include "comprehensive sexuality education". Cameroon further reaffirms that the "prior right" of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected. The use of the terms "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services cannot imply any right of young children or adolescents to access any service without regard for parental responsibility, or the obligation to provide them with information and services that are neither lawful nor acceptable at the national level.

* A/70/150.

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With respect to target 5.4, Cameroon understands "within the household" only as defined in reference to "the family." The family, founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

Cameroon also enters an express reservation on target 5.6, which reads: "Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences".

Cameroon wishes to express a reservation on all terms and all possible interpretations in the document that are in contravention of our national laws. Target 5.6 or any other provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, their implementation or interpretation shall in no case refer to or imply the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

We understand the word "gender" throughout the document to refer only to "male and female". Furthermore, the use of the terms "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" and related terms throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does not create or presume the existence of a "right to abortion" under any circumstance.

Therefore, Cameroon will not accept at any point any policies, monitoring, evaluation or reporting on any provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which will include or tend to include, explicitly or implicitly, the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

In the same vein, Cameroon stresses that indicators for tracking progress on the agreed goals and targets should not invade national policy space or contradict national priorities on the above concepts, as per Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Cameroon is of the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all international instruments relating to human rights and international law reflected therein are not intended to standardize the cultural values of peoples around the globe. Thus, Cameroon will implement and interpret the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full accordance with our national legislation as well as the ethical, cultural and religious values and convictions of our society and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 15 and 117 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Michel **Tommo Monthe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative